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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/08/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PGOV](#) [PBTS](#) [UNSC](#) [MO](#) [WI](#)
SUBJECT: UN OPPOSES RENEWAL OF VAN WALSUM CONTRACT

REF: A. STATE 84664
[1](#)B. USUN 558

Classified By: Ambassador Alejandro D. Wolff for reasons 1.4
(b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) Ambassador Wolff on August 7 met with Undersecretary for UN Political Affairs Lynn Pascoe to deliver points in ref [1](#)A. He urged Pascoe to recommend extension of Peter Van Walsum's term as the SYG's Personal Envoy for Western Sahara or at a minimum to allow Van Walsum to remain in his post until the end of 2008 so he could lead the 5th round of Western Sahara talks. Pascoe said that Van Walsum's ability to continue as an impartial Special Envoy had been severely compromised, and his contract would not be renewed once it expired at the end of August.

[1](#)2. (C) Pascoe expressed surprise at our demarche since he said he had previewed this view to a USG official last month. Moreover, he had also suggested that U.S. Ambassador Christopher Ross would be an ideal candidate to succeed Van Walsum, and since no objection had been posed, a recommendation allowing for this possibility was being prepared for the Secretary General. Ambassador Wolff reiterated the utility of keeping Van Walsum on the portfolio, even if for a short period to lead the 5th round. Pascoe countered that the prospect for progress in the fifth round of negotiations would be enhanced by the appointment of Ambassador Ross, who Pascoe was confident would be an acceptable candidate to all parties.
Khalilzad